

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 08100 181502Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
----- 057242 /43

O P 181431Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6606  
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

S E C R E T JIDDA 8100

EXDIS

FOR ASSTSEC HERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, SA, IS  
SUBJ: ISRAELI CAPTURE OF US MUNITIONS FROM TERRORISTS

REF: STATE 304673 DTG 160138Z DEC 76

1. COLONEL HAYES, DATT, MET WITH VICE MINISTER OF DEFENSE PRINCE TURKI BIN ABD AL AZIZ ON 18 DEC TO DISCUSS THE ISRAELI CAPTURE OF TWO PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS CARRYING US MUNITIONS WHICH WERE CONSIGNED TO SAUDI ARABIA.

2. DATT INFORMED PRINCE TURKI OF THE FACTS OUTLINED IN PARA 2, REFTEL , AND REQUESTED FULL COOPERATION IN INVESTIGATING THE MATTER, BEFORE COVERING THE POINTS OUTLINED IN PARA 4, COLONEL HAYES ALSO PROVIDED PRINCE TURKI WITH A LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR PORTER TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, PRINCE SULTAN BIN ABD AL AZIZ, OUTLINING THE SAME POINTS.

3. PRINCE TURKI ASSURED COLONEL HAYES OF FULL COOPERATION IN INVESTIGATING THE INCIDENT AND STATED THAT A THOROUGH INVENTORY OF STORES WILL BE CONDUCTED AND RECORDS TRACED TO IDENTIFY  
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THOSE RESPONSIBLE. HE REQUESTED ANY FURTHER INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT BE USEFUL IN CONDUCTING THE INVESTIGATION, SUCH AS THE IDENTITY OF THOSE CAPTURED AND OF THE PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATION TO WHICH THEY BELONG.

4. PRINCE TURKI EXPRESSED HIS SINCERE REGRET FOR THE INCIDENT

AND HOPED IT WOULD NOT RESULT IN ADVERSE PUBLICITY. HE EMPHASIZED THAT IT IS NOT SAUDI ARABIA'S POLICY TO TRANSFER MUNITIONS OR EQUIPMENT AND THAT THIS IS CLEARLY A CASE OF THEFT ON WHICH SAG WILL TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION. FURTHER, HE STATED HIS CONCERN FOR SUCH CRIMINAL THEFT IN THAT SUCH MUNITIONS IN THE HANDS OF TERRORIST GROUPS COULD BE EMPLOYED NOT ONLY AGAINST ISRAEL, BUT ALSO WITHIN THE KINGDOM AND AGAINST OTHER NATIONS. PRINCE TURKI ALSO ASSURED DATT OF ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS TO PRECLUDE RECURRENCE OF SUCH AN INCIDENT.

5. THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE DISCUSSION WAS MOST CONGENIAL. PRINCE TURKI APPEARED SINCERELY CONCERNED AND DEEPLY REGRETFUL THAT MUNITIONS CONSIGNED TO SAUDI ARABIA WERE IN TERRORIST HANDS. DATT IS CONVINCED THAT MODA WILL CONDUCT AN EXHAUSTIVE INVESTIGATION AND THAT APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS WILL BE INSTITUTED. PORTER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PALESTINIANS, INVESTIGATIONS, MUNITIONS CONTROLS, TERRORISTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**TAGS:** PINS, SA, IS, US  
**To:** STATE  
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